



## Perceptions of climate change and trust in information providers in rural Australia

---

**Author(s):** Buys L, Aird R, van Megen K, Miller E, Sommerfeld J  
**Year:** 2014  
**Journal:** Public Understanding of Science. 23 (2): 170-188

---

### Abstract:

Disagreement within the global science community about the certainty and causes of climate change has led the general public to question what to believe and whom to trust on matters related to this issue. This paper reports on qualitative research undertaken with Australian residents from two rural areas to explore their perceptions of climate change and trust in information providers. While overall, residents tended to agree that climate change is a reality, perceptions varied in terms of its causes and how best to address it. Politicians, government, and the media were described as untrustworthy sources of information about climate change, with independent scientists being the most trusted. The vested interests of information providers appeared to be a key reason for their distrust. The findings highlight the importance of improved transparency and consultation with the public when communicating information about climate change and related policies.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0963662512449948>

### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;  
surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

#### Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Australasia

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified